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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE ART UNIT 3721

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Van Barlow et al.

Serial No.

10/017,746

Filed

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For

December 7, 2001

COATED STAPLE AND FASTENING TOOL FOR THE SAME

Examiner

Lopez, Michelle

Art Unit

3721

Attorney

Docket No.

510P004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Sir:

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the Office Action dated May 27, 2004, wherein the Examiner finally rejected claims 1-15.

A check in the amount of \$170.00 is enclosed herewith for payment of the appeal fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0930.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 24, 2004.

Signature: Kevin S. Lemack Date: November 24, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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